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OBSERVATIONS
ON THE
EXPEDITION
OF
GENERAL BUONAPARTE
TO
THE EAST;
AND THE
PROBABILITY OF ITS SUCCESS CONSIDERED.

TO WHICH IS ADDED
A BRIEF SKETCH
OF THE
PRESENT STATE OF EGYPT;
AN HISTORICAL ACCOUNT
OF
ALEXANDRIA;

THE TWO HARBOURS OF THAT CITY ACCURATELY DELINEATED, ITS
FORMER SPLENDOR AND PRESENT STATE CONTRASTED; WITH
SOME REMARKS ON ITS LOCAL IMPORTANCE
SHOULD IT BECOME THE

MART OF THE EAST:

TOGETHER WITH A FEW PARTICULARS RELATING TO THE NAVI-
GATION OF THE RED SEA

BY THE EDITOR
OF THE HISTORY OF PETER III. AND CATHARINE II. OF RUSSIA.

LONDON:

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED

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J. WRIGHT, PICCADILLY.

1798.

Observations on the

Slave

in the West Indies

by Thomas Clarkson

London: Printed by J. Johnson, in Pall-mall

1789

Price 1s. 6d.

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OBSERVATIONS
ON THE
EXPEDITION OF GEN. BUONAPARTE
TO
THE EAST.

AMONG the numerous objects which have of late excited curiosity, not one has so much awakened the attention of the public as the expedition of General Buonaparte. Conjecture has been exhausted in forming ideas upon the real intent of a numerous force, collected together, equipped, and, in spite of the vigilance of British observation, dispatched for the fulfilment of a design, at once extensive, grand in its object, but pregnant with temerity, and big with danger.

The object, however, of this mysterious expedition was developed, some time towards the latter end of April, in a report of Eschasseriaux on M. Wadstrom's book concerning Sierra Leone and Bulam. The reporter, after expressing his doubts of the

policy of colonization in very remote parts, observed, that if a country should present itself near home, uniting the advantages of fertility, extent, and geographical situation, the government would do well to form a colony there, to give scope to the activity of the surplus of its citizens. These advantages Eschasseriaux pointed out in Egypt. He contended that a colony there would form a bulwark for the Adriatic isles, give the republic the command of the Mediterranean, become the *entrepot* of India trade, and unite the commerce of the East with that of the West. Such an establishment would certainly be glorious, not in a commercial point of view alone; it might enable the French to execute two great projects: the junction of the Red Sea with the Mediterranean, by cutting through the Isthmus of Suez;* and the re-establishment of the canal which formerly conveyed the produce of India to the Nile by the Arabian Gulph.

* The difficulties, however, attending this design are considered at large in the sequel of this pamphlet.

The reporter then proceeded to state openly the grounds upon which the French were to seize on Egypt. "The time," said he, "is favourable, and the French must seize on that country, to prevent other nations doing it in their stead."

Upon this a number of scientific men were immediately employed in the important expedition.*

* Dengos, Duc la Chapelle, Nouet, Mechin, jun. astronomers.

Molard, Comte, Clouer, Richer, Brogué, jun. engineers.

Thouin, Geoffroi, Delisle, naturalists.

Dolomieu, Mubert, Dubuis, mineralogists.

Bertholet, Descotils, Samuel Bernard, Le Grand, chemists.

Coromeez, jun. geometrician.

Nectour, botanist.

Savigny, zoologist.

Dubois, Labatte, surgeons.

Millecot, Ridoute, Rigant, surveyors.

Three hundred pupils of the Polytechnic School, called Geographic Engineers; a complete library, maps, charts, &c. two balloons 30 feet diameter, a mechanical and chemical apparatus, two printing presses, and near six thousand artificers of every kind.

While we were intent upon making formidable preparations to oppose the invasion of our own country, which seemed to be seriously intended by the French, and which threat was, doubtless, held out to cover their main design, a design that seemed in itself chimerical and not to be effected, the intrepid Conqueror of Italy embarked on board his fleet,* set sail with a favourable wind, and

* The following is a list of his squadron :

BRUEYS, Vice-Admiral, Commander;

Rear-Admirals VILLENEUVE, DUCHEILA, DECREST.

DUMANOIR, Chief of Division, commanding the Convoy.

SHIPS OF THE LINE.

L'Orient	-	120	Capt. Cassa Bianca.
The William Tell		80	— Saunier.
Le Tonnant	-	80	— Du Petit Thonars.
Le Franklin	-	80	— Gillet.
L'Aquilon	-	74	— Thevenard, sen.
Le Genereux	-	74	— Lejoills.
Le Mercure	-	74	— Lalonde.
L'Heureux	-	74	— Etienne, jun.
Le Guerier	-	74	— Trulet, sen.
Le Timoleon	-	74	— Trulet, jun.
Le Peuple Souverain		74	— Racors.
Le Conquerant	-	74	— Dalbarade.
Le Spartiate	-	74	— Emerillau.

before the British Admiral could come up with him, had captured the Isle of Malta, and proceeded to Alexandria.

Previous to his departure, it is said that Buonaparte, in order to improve the leisure

FRIGATES.

La Diane	-	40	Capt. Peyret.
La Justice	-	40	— Villeneuve.
La Junon	-	40	— Poulquier.
L'Arthemise	-	40	— Standedet.
L'Alceste	-	40	— Barrey.
La Fortune	-	36	— Marchand.

BRIGS.

Le Corcire	-	14	Capt. Reynaud.
Le Lody	-	12	— Sennequier.

FLUTES.

Le Dubois	-	-	Capt. ———.
Le Causse	-	-	— L'Allemand.
La Sensible	-	-	— Bourdet.
Le Meurion	-	-	— Maillet.
La Carrere	-	-	— Frichet.
Le Leoben	-	-	— Colette.
La Mantoue	-	-	— Ouiens.
De Montenof	-	-	— Templer.

He likewise took with him a large fleet of transports, in number, it has been asserted, not less than four hundred; on board of which was embarked a considerable army, with artillery, vast quantities of mortars, howitzers, furnaces, bombs, grape and cannister-shot, &c.

that he derived from the temporisation of the Austrian Plenipotentiaries, demanded from the public library at Milan all the books which treated on Egypt, Syria, the Red Sea, the Persian Gulph, &c. On returning the books after the conclusion of peace, all such passages as related to Egypt were marked ; so that this enterprizing General seems to have availed himself of every necessary pre-requisite, and maturely weighed the difficulties of his undertaking.

The season of the year for the accomplishment of this expedition to the East, admitting that he intends the prosecution of it down the Red Sea, and crosses the ocean, is peculiarly favourable. He is supposed to have landed at Alexandria on the 8th of July.

In the first place, upon his arrival, he found plenty of water, of which at any other time of the year there is a great scarcity; and the floods, by which the banks of the Nile

and the plains of Egypt are covered, returned.

In the next place, the Etesian winds, blowing to the eastward from April to September, provided he can get shipping enough to convey his army down the Red Sea, will waft him over to the shores of Hindostan. Intimation of his visit has already, we understand, preceded his arrival.*

* The following Proclamation is said to have been circulated with the approbation of Tippoo Saib :

LIBERTY—EQUALITY.

THE FRENCH REPUBLIC ONE AND INDIVISIBLE.

PROCLAMATION.

Anne Joseph Hipolite Mallartie, General in Chief, Governor General of the Isle of France, and of the Reunion, and Commandant General of the French Establishment to the East of the Cape of Good Hope.

“ *CITIZENS,*

“ Knowing for many years your zeal and attachment for the interest and glory of our Republic, we are very impatient, and consider it a duty to make known to you the propositions that we have received from Tippoo Sultan, by two Ambassadors which he had sent to us. This

Whatever may be the ultimate views of this enterprizing General, it seems tolerably certain that Egypt is the object of his first operations. If the French intend to

Prince has written particular letters to the Colonial Assembly, and to all the Generals employed in that Government: he has likewise addressed to us a packet for the Executive Directory.

First, “ He demands to make an alliance offensive and defensive with the French, proposing to maintain at his charge, as long as the war shall continue in India, the troops they can send him.

Secondly, “ He promises to furnish every necessary for that war, except wine and brandy, of which he finds himself absolutely destitute.

Thirdly, “ That all preparations are made ready to receive the succours which they shall give to him; and on the arrival of the troops, the Chiefs and Officers shall find every thing necessary to carry on a war that Europeans are little accustomed to.

Fourthly, “ Finally, he only waits the moment when the French shall come to his aid, to declare war against the English, ardently wishing to drive them from India.

“ As it is impossible for us to reduce the number of the 107th and 108th regiments, and *de la Garde Soldée du port*

make it a kind of colony, and the channel of a great trade, it is, doubtless, most advantageously situated for that purpose. Without any reference to its ancient flourishing state, it is now in possession of a considerable trade, with Arabia, by the Red Sea; with Abyssinia and the interior of Africa, by the Nile; and with Turkey and Europe, by the Mediterranean.

de la Fraternité, on account of the assistance we have sent to our allies the Dutch, we invite the citizens voluntarily to embody themselves in their respective municipalities to serve under the colours of Tippoo. This Prince desires also to have the citizens of colour freemen: and we invite all those who wish to serve under his banners to enrol themselves. We can assure all the citizens who wish to enrol themselves, that Tippoo will make advantageous treaties, which will continue with his Ambassadors, who may engage for themselves, besides in the name of their Sovereign, in such way, that the French, who shall have taken part in his armies, shall not be retained when they wish to return back to their country.

Done this 10th Pluviose, the 6th year of the
French Republic.

(Signed)

MALLARTIE."

It was ascertained by the Custom-house accounts of Cairo, in the year 1783, that business was carried on in that city to the amount of between six and seven millions sterling. Its exports, in rice, corn, flax, and coffee are nearly two millions. Considering Egypt merely in a commercial point of view, it must, therefore, hold out vast attractions to a nation which has already formed the project of occupying exclusively the commerce of the Levant. A project, the execution of which is singularly favoured by the possession of the Venetian Islands; by the French influence over all Italy; and, lastly, by the capture of Malta. But the views of France probably extend much farther, and she may entertain hopes of carrying on trade with the East Indies by a way much shorter than the present one, and which, if equally safe, would doubtless be preferred. This idea was in agitation long before the revolution, and a plan to that effect was actually presented by Baron de Tott to the Mareschal de Castries.

A communication with the East Indies would be naturally opened by the Red Sea, the navigation of which cannot be dangerous, as it is at present made by the Turks, who are but indifferent seamen.

The number of their vessels employed in it do not exceed thirty, and they depart once a year from Jidda, and arrive with the southerly winds at Suez, where they land their cargoes of gums, perfumes, India stuffs, and particularly the coffee of Yemen in Arabia. If, however, Egypt were in the hands of the French, they would, of course, make themselves masters of the Streight of Babel-mandel, construct a fort at Berenice, and perhaps succeed in clearing and refitting that of Suez. These two towns would be the store-houses, from which merchandize might be conveyed by canals to Cairo and Alexandria.

With respect to cutting a canal through the isthmus of Suez, it is evidently impossible, from the nature of the soil, without

mentioning any other obstacle. But this difficulty might in some degree be obviated, by restoring some of the canals which formerly existed, such as the canal of Suez to the lake *Amer*, and that from the lake to the *Nile*, (the remains of which are still visible) and by making another from Berenice towards Coptos. Vessels of considerable burden could not navigate these canals, but it would be a sufficient advantage to have the merchandize transported by small craft. The cities which have been mentioned would become magazines, where all the merchants of Europe might draw the different articles of the East India trade. Timber-yards, docks, and arsenals, might be formed at Berenice for the purpose of establishing a naval force; for, though there are no forests or woods in that part, ships might be easily built at Toulon, constructed in such a way as to take to pieces *, which, being properly numbered,

* Archimedes built a ship, or floating castle, by order of Hiero, of which the following is a description :

As much timber was used in the building her as was destined for sixty galleys; and so artfully contrived in the

would be conveyed by sea to Alexandria, and and from thence by canals to the new port in the Red Sea. One ship would be capable of carrying seven others in this manner.

This scheme of first building ships and afterwards putting them on board of others, may appear ridiculous enough at first sight; but it is confidently asserted, that a model of the kind has been actually constructed at Toulon. A ship has been built there that divides into eight parts. The execution of the whole plan would, however, require at least a period of thirty years.

inside, that each rower, seaman, soldier, and passenger, had a cabin to himself. There were also several halls to eat in, rooms, walks, galleries, gardens, fish-ponds, stables, kitchens, mills, a temple for Venus, baths, and council chambers; besides all this, she had an iron rampart and towers, two at the head, and two at the stern, the other being on the sides, with walls and bastions, whereon were placed warlike engines, and, among the rest, one that threw a stone of 300 weight, or an arrow twelve cubits long, to the distance of 600 yards.

The conquest of Egypt may be effected in as easy a manner as that of Malta. Treachery and cowardice reign there in as great a degree as in the latter place. Although the Grand Signior be considered as Sovereign of it, the Mamalucks are in fact the rulers; for the Pacha, appointed by the Porte, has no more authority than the ancient Doge of Genoa, and the tribute to what is called the Supreme Power is very ill paid. The military force, which is also very ill paid, consists of the Mamalucks, and is 10,000 horse;—the infantry is scarce worthy of notice. It is commanded by twenty-four Beys, who are occasionally in a state of hostility with each other. There are neither forts, redoubts, nor artillery, and the unlimited power exercised by a licentious soldiery over the people would naturally make the latter eager to shake off the yoke of oppression, and assist the French in the execution of their designs.

From these considerations it follows, that Buonaparte may gather new laurels in

Egypt, without exposing himself to danger, or to the risk of failure in his enterprize, provided his troops can overcome the heat of that climate, as they have done that of Italy.

It is to be hoped, however, that he will receive a check in his career; and it is hardly probable that he will effect a design, which, with every precaution, involves in its execution difficulties insurmountable but to the most daring resolution.

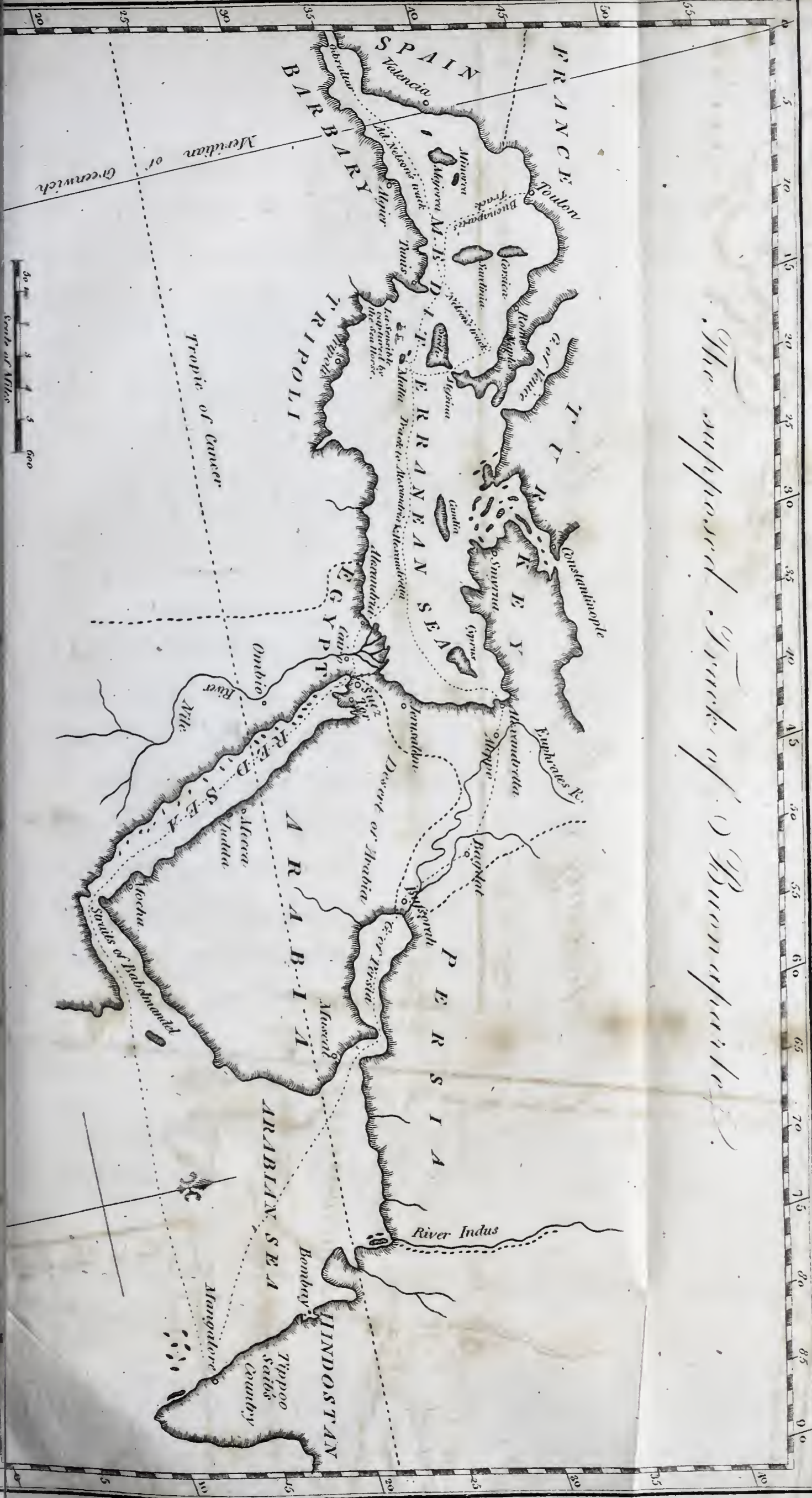
Should he take his route by the Red Sea, the following statement of that course will, it is presumed, be found accurate:

	Miles.
From Toulon to the Island of Malta, S. E. distant about - - -	600
From Malta the port of Alexandria lies E. S. E. distant - - -	840
From Alexandria across the Nile to Suez, the course is S. E. by E. distant -	180
From Suez through the Red Sea to Babelmandel the course is S. E. by S. distant -	1200
From the Straits of Babelmandel to Mangalore the course is nearly East, distant -	1700
Complete distance from Toulon to Mangalore	<hr/> 4520

Should he have landed part of his forces at Alexandria, and proceeded with the remainder to Alexandretta, and taken the route of the Gulph of Persia, it will be found upon examination that

	Miles.
From Toulon to Malta is about	600
From Malta to Alexandretta	1050
From Alexandretta to Aleppo	75
From Aleppo to Bagdat	390
From Bagdat to Bussorah	240
From Bussorah to Muscat	630
From Muscat to Mangalore	1210
Complete distance by the Gulf of Persia	<u>4195</u>

The supposed Tracks of Hannibal.



12

✓
AN

ACCURATE DESCRIPTION

OF

ALEXANDRIA.

ALEXANDRIA, now Scandaria, by Athenæus called Χρυσή, is a city in Lower Egypt, and, for a long time, has been its capital. This city was built by Alexander the Great, soon after the overthrow of Tyre, about three hundred and thirty-three years before Christ. It is situated on the Mediterranean, twelve miles west of that mouth of the Nile called *Canopicum*, and lies in E. long. $30^{\circ} 19''$. N. lat. $31^{\circ} 10''$.

Alexander is said to have been induced to build this city on account of its conve-

nient situation for a fine port ; * and so sudden was his resolution, that after he had directed where every public structure was to be erected, he fixed the number of temples, and the deities to whom they should be dedicated. There were no instruments at hand proper for marking out the walls, according to the custom of those times. Upon this the King was advised by a workman to collect what meal was among the soldiers, and to sift it fine upon the

* When Alexander resolved to make his reign truly glorious by the foundation of so many cities, he selected this spot, which has no apparent advantages, excepting that of vicinity to the Hellespont, to have induced him to dignify it with his own name. The care of completing it he left to Lysimachus, who discharged the trust. But it was not till the eleven Roman colonies * were established in *Asia Minor* that it became a city of such opulence and extent. The consequent commercial privileges preserved it from the present annihilation, when rival cities, farther remote from the Hellespont, had sunk into decay or oblivion.

* ‘ Νυν δε καὶ Ῥωμαίων ἀποικίας δεδεκται, καὶ ἐστὶ τῶν ἐλλογιμῶν πόλεων.’ STRABO, l. xiii. p. 593.

ground, whereby the circuit of the walls would be sufficiently distinguished. This advice was followed; and the new method of marking out the walls was, by Aristander, the King's soothsayer, interpreted as a presage of the city's abounding with all the necessaries of life. Nor was he deceived in his prediction; for Alexandria soon became the staple, not only for merchandize, but also for all the arts and sciences of the Greeks.

Alexandria was a league and a half long, by one-third in breadth, which made the circumference of its walls about four leagues. Lake *Mareotis* bathed its walls on the south, and the Mediterranean on the north. It was intersected lengthwise by straight parallel streets. By this direction a free passage was left to the northerly wind, which alone conveys salubrity and coolness into Egypt. A street of two thousand feet wide began at the gate of the sea and terminated

at the gate Canopus. It was decorated by magnificent houses, by temples and public buildings. In this extensive range the eye was never tired with admiring the marble, the porphyry, and the obelisks, which were destined, at some future day, to embellish Rome and Constantinople. This street, the handsomest in the universe, was intersected by another of the same breadth, which formed a square at their junction of half a league in circumference. From the middle of this great place, the two gates were to be seen at once, and vessels arriving under full sail from the north and from the south.

A mole of a mile in length stretched from the continent to the Isle of Pharos, and divided the great harbour in two. That which lies to the northward preserves its name. A dyke, drawn from the island to the rock whereon was built the *Pharos*, secured it from the westerly winds. The other was named *Eunostos*, or the safe return. The

former is called at present the *new*, the latter the *old* harbour: * a bridge, that joins the mole to the city, served for a communication between them. It was raised on lofty pillars sunk into the sea, and left a free passage for ships. The palace, which advanced beyond the promontory *Lochias*, extended as far as the dyke, and occupied more than a quarter of the city. Each of the Ptolemies added to its magnificence. It contained within its inclosure the museum, an asylum for learned men, groves and buildings worthy of royal majesty, and a temple, where the body of Alexander was deposited in a golden coffin.

The infamous Seleucus Cibyofactes violated this monument, carried off the golden coffin, and put a glass one in its stead. In the great harbour was the little Island of Anti-Rhodes, where a theatre and a royal

* See the Plate.

palace stood. Within the harbour of Eunos was a smaller one, called *Kibotos*, scooped out by the hand of man, which communicated with Lake Mareotis by a canal. Between this canal and the palace was the admirable temple of Serapis, and that of Neptune, near the great place where the market was held. Alexandria extended likewise along the southern banks of the lake. Its eastern part presented to view the *gymnasium*, with its porticoes of more than six hundred feet long, supported by several colonnades of marble. Without the gate of Canopus was a spacious circus for the chariot-races. Beyond that, the suburb of Nicopolis ran along the sea-shore, and seemed a second Alexandria. A superb amphitheatre was built there, with a race-ground, for the celebration of the *Quinquennalia*.

Such is the description of Alexandria left us by the ancients, and, above all others, by *Strabo*.

The architect employed by Alexander in this undertaking was the celebrated Dinocrates, who had acquired so much reputation by rebuilding the temple of Diana at Ephesus. The city was first rendered populous by *Ptolemy Soter*, one of Alexander's captains, who, after the death of the Macedonian Monarch, being appointed Governor of Egypt, soon assumed the title of King, and took up his residence at Alexandria, about three hundred and four years before Christ.

In the thirtieth year of *Ptolemy Soter's* reign, he took his son *Ptolemy Philadelphus* partner with him in the empire: and by this Prince the city of Alexandria was much embellished. In the first year of his reign the famous watch-tower of *Pharos* was finished. It had been begun several years before by *Ptolemy Soter*; and when finished was looked upon as one of the wonders of the world. The same year the Island of *Pharos* itself, originally seven furlongs distant, was joined to it by a causeway. This was the work of *Dexi-*

phanes, who completed it at the same time that his son put the last hand to the tower. The tower was a large square structure of white marble; upon the top of which fires were kept constantly burning, for the direction of sailors. The building cost eight hundred talents, which, if Attic, amounted to £.165,000; if Alexandrian, to twice that sum.

The architect employed in this famous structure made use of the following artifice to usurp the whole glory to himself. Being ordered to engrave upon it the following inscription, ‘ *King Ptolemy to the Gods the Saviours, for the benefit of sailors;*’ instead of the King’s name he substituted his own, and then filling up the hollow of the marble, wrote upon it the above inscription. In process of time the mortar being worn off, the following inscription appeared: ‘ *Sostratus the Candian, the son of Dexiphanes, to the Gods the Saviours, for the benefit of sailors.*’

This year also was remarkable for the bringing of the image of Serapis from Pontus to Alexandria. It was set up in one of the suburbs of the city called *Rbacotis*, where a temple was afterwards erected to his honour, suitable to the greatness of that stately metropolis, and called, from the god worshipped there, *Serapeum*. This structure, according to Ammianus Marcellinus, surpassed in beauty and magnificence all others in the world, except the Capitol at Rome. Within the verge of this temple was the famous Alexandrian library. It was founded by Ptolemy Soter, for the use of an academy that he instituted in this city; and, by continual additions made to it by his successors, became at last the finest library in the world, containing no fewer than 700,000 volumes. The method followed in collecting books for this library was, to seize all those which were brought into Egypt by Greeks and other foreigners. These books were transcribed in the museum by persons appointed for that purpose; the copies were

then delivered to the proprietors, and the originals laid up in the library. Ptolemy Euergetes, having borrowed from the Athenians the works of Sophocles, Euripides, and Æschylus, returned them only the copies, which he caused to be transcribed in as beautiful a manner as possible; presenting the Athenians at the same time with fifteen talents, upwards of £5000 sterling, for the exchange.

As the museum was at first in that quarter of the city called *Bruchion*, near the royal palace, the library was placed there likewise; but when it came to contain 400,000 volumes, another library within the *Serapeum* was erected by way of supplement to it; and, on that account, called the daughter of the former. In this second library 300,000 volumes, in process of time, were deposited; and the two together contained the 700,000 volumes already mentioned. In the war carried on by Julius Cæsar against the inhabitants of this city, the li-

brary in the *Bruchion*, with the 400,000 volumes contained in it, was reduced to ashes. The library in the *Serapeum*, however, still remained; and here Cleopatra deposited 200,000 volumes of the Pergamean library, with which Marc Antony presented her. These, and others added from time to time, rendered the new library at Alexandria more numerous and considerable than the former; and though it was often plundered during the revolutions and troubles of the Roman empire, yet it was repaired time after time, and filled with the same number of books.

For two hundred and ninety-three years Alexandria was held in subjection by the Ptolemies. The following is a list of these princes, with the dates of their respective reigns:

	Reigned Years.	Died A. M.
<i>Ptolemy</i> , son of <i>Lagus</i> , surnamed <i>Soter</i>	39	3720
----- <i>Philadelphus</i> - -	39	3758
----- <i>Euergetes</i> - -	25	3783

	Reigned Years.	Died A. M.
Ptolemy Philopater - - -	17	3800
----- Epiphanes - - -	24	3824
----- Philometer - - -	37	3861
----- Euergetes, or Physcon -	53 <i>part</i>	} 3888
<i>with his brother Philometer, and part alone.</i>		
----- Lathyrus - - -	36—6 mo.	3923
Cleopatra, daughter of <i>Lathyrus</i> , and wife of <i>Alexander I.</i> reigned -	6 mo.	
<i>Alexander I.</i> nephew of <i>Lathyrus</i> , was established in 3924, and died -		3943
<i>Alexander II.</i> son of <i>Alexander I.</i> was dispossessed by the Alexandrians in - - - - -		3939
Ptolemy <i>Notbus</i> , or <i>Auletes</i> , son of <i>Lathyrus</i> , reigned - - -	13	3953
-----, surnamed <i>Dionysius</i> , or Bac- chus, reigned - - -	3—8 mo.	3957
Cleopatra reigned from 3957, and killed herself in - - -		3974

This city, as we have already observed, soon became extremely populous, and was embellished both by its own princes and the Romans; but, like most other noted cities of antiquity, hath been the seat of terrible massacres. About one hundred and forty-one years before Christ it was almost totally depopulated by Ptolemy Physcon. That barbarous monster, without the least

provocation, gave free liberty to his guards to plunder his metropolis, and murder the inhabitants at their pleasure. The cruelties practised on this occasion cannot be expressed; and the few who escaped were so terrified that they fled into other countries. Upon this, *Physcon*, that he might not reign over empty houses, invited thither strangers from the neighbouring countries; by whom the city was re-peopled, and soon recovered its former splendor. On this occasion many learned men having been obliged to fly, proved the means of reviving learning in Greece, Asia Minor, the islands of the Archipelago, and other places, where it was almost totally lost.

The new inhabitants were not treated with much more kindness by *Physcon* than the old ones had been; for, on their complaining of his tyrannical behaviour, he resolved on a general massacre of the young men. Accordingly, when they were one day assembled in the *gymnasium*, a place of their public ex-

ercises, he ordered it to be set on fire ; so that they all perished, either in the flames, or by the swords of his mercenaries, whom the tyrant had stationed at all the avenues.

Though Julius Cæsar was obliged to carry on a war for some time against this city, it seems not to have suffered much damage, except the burning of the library already mentioned. Before Cæsar left Alexandria, in acknowledgment of the assistance he had received from the Jews, he confirmed all their privileges there, and even engraved his decree on a pillar of brass. This, however, did not prevent the massacre of 50,000 of them in this city about the year of Christ 67.

The city of Alexandria seems to have fallen into decay soon after this, and to have forfeited many of its ancient privileges, though for what offence is not known : but when Adrian visited Egypt, about the year 141, it was almost totally ruined.

He repaired both the public and the private buildings ; he not only restored the inhabitants to their ancient privileges, but heaped upon them new favours ; for which they returned him their solemn thanks, and conferred upon him what honours they could while he was present ; but he was no sooner gone than they published the most bitter and virulent language against him.

The fickle and satirical humour of the Alexandrians was highly disagreeable to *Adrian*, though he did not express his indignation by punishing them for it ; but when they lampooned *Caracalla*, he did not let them escape so easily. That tyrant, in the year 215, when he visited their city, having become the subject of their foolish satires, ordered a general massacre by his numerous troops, who were dispersed all over the city. The inhuman orders being issued, all were murdered, without distinction of age or sex ; so that in one night's time, the whole city floated in blood, and every house was

filled with carcases. The monster who occasioned this had retired, during the night, to the temple of Serapis, to implore the protection of that deity ; and not yet satiated with slaughter, commanded the massacre to be continued all the next day, so that very few of the inhabitants remained. As if even this had not been sufficient, he stripped the city of all its privileges ; suppressed the academy ; ordered all strangers who lived there to depart ; and that the few remaining might not have the satisfaction of seeing one another, he cut off all communication of one street with another, by walls built for that purpose, and guarded by troops left there.

Notwithstanding this terrible disaster, Alexandria soon recovered its former splendor, upon the death of Caracalla, who was murdered a short time after. It was long esteemed the first city in the world, next to Rome ; and we may judge of its magnificence, and the multitude of people contained

in it, from the account of Diodorus Siculus, who relates, that in his time, forty-four years before Christ, it had on its rolls 300,000 freemen. Towards the middle of the sixth century it fell into the hands of the

ARABS.

Amrou Ebnal Aas, Omar's General, took it by storm, after a siege of fourteen months, and with the loss of 23,000 men. Heraclius, then Emperor of Constantinople, did not send a single ship to its assistance. This Prince affords an example very rare in history ; he had displayed some vigour in the first year of his reign, and then suffered himself to be lulled into idleness and effeminacy. Awakened suddenly from his lethargy by a noise of the conquests of Cosroes, that scourge of the east, he put himself at the head of his armies, distinguished himself as a great Captain from his very first campaign ; laid waste Persia for seven years, and returned to his capital, covered with

laurels : he then became a theologian on the throne, lost all his energy, and amused himself the rest of his life with disputing upon menotheism, whilst the Arabs were robbing him of the finest provinces of his empire. Deaf to the cries of the unfortunate inhabitants of Alexandria, as he had been to the people of Jerusalem, who defended themselves for two years, he left them a sacrifice to the fortunate ascendant of the indefatigable *Amrou*. All their intrepid youth perished with their arms in their hands.

The victor, astonished at his conquest, wrote to the Khalif: “ I have taken the city of the west. It is of an immense extent. I cannot describe to you how many wonders it contains. There are in it 4000 palaces, 4000 baths, 12,000 dealers in fresh oil, 12,000 gardeners, 40,000 Jews, who pay tribute, 400 Comedians, &c.

At this time, Alexandria, according to the Arabian historian, consisted of three cities,

viz. *Menna*, or the port, which included *Pharos* and the neighbouring parts ; *Alexandria*, properly so called, where the modern *Scanderia* now stands ; and *Nekita*, probably the Necropolis of Josephus and Strabo.

At that time, *John*, surnamed the *Grammarian*, a famous Peripatetic philosopher, being in the city, and in high favour with *Amrou Ebnal Aas*, the Saracen General, begged of him the royal library. *Amrou* replied, that it was not in his power to grant such a request ; but that he would write to the Khalif on that head ; since, without knowing his pleasure, he dared not dispose of a single book. He accordingly wrote to *Omar*, who was then Khalif, acquainting him with the request of his friend : to which the ignorant tyrant replied, “ That if those books contained the same doctrine with the *Koran*, they would be of no use, since the *Koran* contained all necessary truths ; but if they contained any thing contrary to that book, they ought not to be suffered ; and

therefore, whatever their contents were, he ordered them to be destroyed. Pursuant to this order, they were distributed among the public baths; where, for the space of six months, they served to supply the fires of those places, of which there was an incredible number in *Alexandria*.

After the city was taken, *Amrou* thought proper to pursue the Greeks, who had fled farther up the country, and therefore marched out of *Alexandria*, leaving but a slender garrison in the place. The Greeks, who had before fled on board their ships, being apprised of this, returned on a sudden, surprised the town, and put all the Arabs they found therein to the sword. But *Amrou* returned, and drove them out of it with great slaughter; after which, the Greeks were so intimidated, that he had nothing further to fear from them. A few years after, however, *Amrou* being deprived of his government by the Khalif *Othman*, the Egyptians were so much displeased with his dismissal,

that they inclined to revolt ; and *Constantine*, the Greek Emperor, having intelligence of their disaffection, began to meditate the reduction of *Alexandria*. For this purpose he sent one *Manuel*, an eunuch, and his General, with a powerful army, to re-take that place ; which, by the assistance of the Greeks in the city, who kept a secret correspondence with the Imperial forces while at sea, and joined them as soon as they had made the descent, he effected, without any considerable effusion of Christian blood.

The Khalif, now perceiving his mistake, immediately restored *Amrou* to his former dignity. This step was very agreeable to the natives ; who, having had experience of the military skill and bravery of this renowned General, and apprehending that they should be called to an account by the Greeks for their former perfidious conduct, had petitioned *Othman* to send him again into Egypt.

Upon *Amrou's* arrival, therefore, at *Alexandria*, the Copts, or natives, with the traitor *Al-Mokawkas*, (who had formerly betrayed the fortress of *Mesr* into *Amrou's* hands) at their head, not only joined, but supplied him with all kinds of provisions, exciting him to attack the Greeks without delay.

This he did ; and, after a most obstinate dispute, which lasted several days, drove them into the town ; where, for some time, they defended themselves with great bravery, and repelled the utmost efforts of the besiegers. This so exasperated *Amrou*, that he swore, “ If God enabled him to conquer the Greeks, he would throw down the walls of the city, and make it as easy of access as a *brothel*, which lies open to every one.” Nor did he fail to execute this menace, for, having taken the town by storm, he quite dismantled it, entirely demolishing the walls and fortifications. The lives of the citizens, however, were spared ; at least, as far as lay

in the General's power ; but many of them were put to the sword by the soldiers on their first entrance. In one quarter, particularly, *Amrou* found them butchering Alexandrians with unrelenting barbarity ; to which, however, by his seasonable interposition, he put a stop, and on that spot erected a *Mosque*, which he called the *Mosque of Mercy*.

From this time Alexandria never recovered its former splendor. It continued under the dominion of the Khalifs till the year 924, when it was taken by the

MAGREBIANS,

two years after its great church had been destroyed by fire. This church was called by the Arabs *Al Kaisaria*, or *Casarea* ; and had formerly been a Pagan temple, erected in honour of *Saturn* by the famous *Cleopatra*.

The city was soon after abandoned by the Magrebiens ; but in 928, they again made

themselves masters of it. Their fleet being afterwards defeated by that belonging to the *Khalif Abul Kasem*, the Magrebian General retired from Alexandria, leaving there a garrison of only three hundred men ; of which Thmaal, the Khalif's Admiral, being apprised, he in a few days appeared before the town, and carried off the remainder of the inhabitants to an island in the Nile, called *Abukair*. This was done to prevent *Abul Kasem* from meeting with any entertainment at *Alexandria*, in case he should think proper to return. According to *Eutychus*, above 200,000 of the miserable inhabitants perished this year.

What contributed to raise Alexandria to that prodigious height of splendor, which, for a long time, it abundantly enjoyed, was on account of its local situation, it being the centre of commerce between the eastern and western parts of the world. It was with the view of becoming master of this lucrative trade that Alexander built this city,

after having extirpated the *Tyrians*, who formerly engrossed all the East India traffic. Of the immense riches which that trade afforded, we may form an idea, from considering that the Romans accounted it a point of policy to oppress the Egyptians, especially the Alexandrians: and after the defeat of Zenobia, there was a single merchant of Alexandria who undertook to raise and pay an army out of the profits of his trade. The Greek Emperors drew prodigious tributes from Egypt; and yet the Khalifs found their subjects in such prosperous circumstances as to admit of their screwing up their revenues to three hundred millions of crowns.

If the importance of the situation of this city has allured the rapacity of the French General, who seems to act upon a wide system of political speculation; in the hands of the French, provided they should become masters of the Mediterranean, it would

prove of the most important service. Of this we shall have occasion to speak at large in considering the probability of such an event taking place.

To return, therefore, to our narrative. Though the revolution which happened in the government of Egypt, after it fell into the hands of the Mahometans, frequently affected this city to a very great degree ; yet still the excellence of its port, and the innumerable conveniencies resulting from the East India trade to whomsoever were masters of Egypt, preserved Alexandria from total destruction, even when in the hands of the most barbarous nations. Thus, in the thirteenth century, when the barbarism introduced by the Goths began to wear off from the European nations, and they acquired a taste for the elegancies of life, the old mart of *Alexandria* began to revive ; and the port, though far from recovering its former magnificence, grew once more fa-

mous, by becoming the centre of commerce; but having fallen into the hands of the

TURKS,

and the passage round the Cape of Good Hope being discovered by the Portuguese in 1499, a fatal blow was given to the *Alexandrian* commerce, and the city has since fallen into decay.

We shall now give a sketch of the present state of this once famous city, which, provided the Red Sea is, what it is affirmed to be, navigable on the African side, may again rear its head, and become the emporium of all the East.

The city of Alexandria, at present, is supposed to contain not more than 10,000 inhabitants; a strange *colluvies* of different nations, as well as from various parts of the Turkish empire. They are in general given to thieving and cheating; and, like their

predecessors, seditious above all others, were they not kept in awe by the severity of their government. The British and French, before this war, carried on considerable commerce with them, and each had a Consul residing there. Some Venetian ships were also accustomed to sail thither yearly ; but this they have done with French colours ; and, during the monarchy, under the French protection : that protection *now* is not *quite* so safe as it was. The subjects of those kingdoms which used to keep no Consul here, were subject to a tax imposed by the Grand Signior : but the Jews found out a method of indemnifying themselves for this disadvantage, by selling their commodities cheaper than other foreigners could afford. They were also favoured by the farmers of the revenues, who knew that if they did not pay them some private regard, the Jews had it in their power to check the impost of the articles of merchandize during the two years that their farm lasted.

The present city is a kind of peninsula, situated between two ports. That to the westward was called by the ancients *Portus Eunostos*, now the *Old Port*, and is by far the best ; Turkish vessels only are allowed to anchor there : the other, called the *New Port*, is for the Christians ; at the extremity of one of the arms of which stood the famous *Pharos*.* The *New Port*, or *Harbour*, appropriated to the Europeans, is clogged up with sand, insomuch that in stormy weather ships are liable to bulge ; and the bottom being also rocky, the cables soon chafe and part ; so that one vessel driving against a second, and that against a third, they are perhaps all lost. Of this there was a fatal instance some years ago, when forty-two vessels were dashed to pieces on the mole in a gale of wind from the north-west, and numbers have been since lost there at different times. If it be asked in Europe, why

* See the Plate.

has not the Old Port been repaired? the answer is, that in Turkey they destroy every thing, and repair nothing. The Old Harbour has been likewise in a state of gradual destruction, from the ballast of vessels being continually thrown into it for the last two hundred years.

The spirit of the Turkish government * is to ruin the labours of past ages, and destroy

* The government of Turkey is at once unlimited, despotic, and oppressive. It disclaims the law of nature, equity and reason, and exhibits an amplification of injustice, tyranny, and vice. It tramples on the most sacred rights and privileges of humanity, and is formed to perpetuate the horrors of cruelty and desolation. The Sultan is deemed omnipotent, and is revered like a God. He has the power of life and death over all his subjects, and from his decision there is no appeal. Such, indeed, is the wonderful force of prejudice and education, that men, who enjoy the first dignities of the state, when the warrant for their execution is signed, will, without hesitation, obey the ordinance, and bless the hand which deprives them of existence! So far from making any opposition, or even remonstrance, they frequently consider it as the height of honour and glory that their lives should be terminated by a command from their Sovereign, and willingly conclude

the hopes of future times, because the barbarity of ignorant despotism never considers to-morrow.

In time of war Alexandria has been of no importance. No fortification is to be seen : even the *Farillon*, with its lofty towers, cannot be defended. The 500 Janissaries who should form the garrison, reduced to half that number, are for the most part workmen, and know little more than how to smoke their pipes. It has only four cannon fit for service, and scarcely a gunner

their services by this final proof of their fidelity and submission. What a strange, what an unaccountable infatuation ! that men, from mere stupidity and inertness of mind, should be prevailed on to contemplate the ruinous apparatus of the most odious and repugnant tyranny, not only with complacency, but with veneration : and that they should be insensible to the value of their natural and imprescriptible rights, as to submit, without repining, to the privation of every thing that is worthy and good, and cheerfully surrender life itself whenever it is demanded.

See *Hunter's Travels through France, Turkey, &c.*

who knows how to point them. A single frigate would be sufficient to reduce the place to ashes.

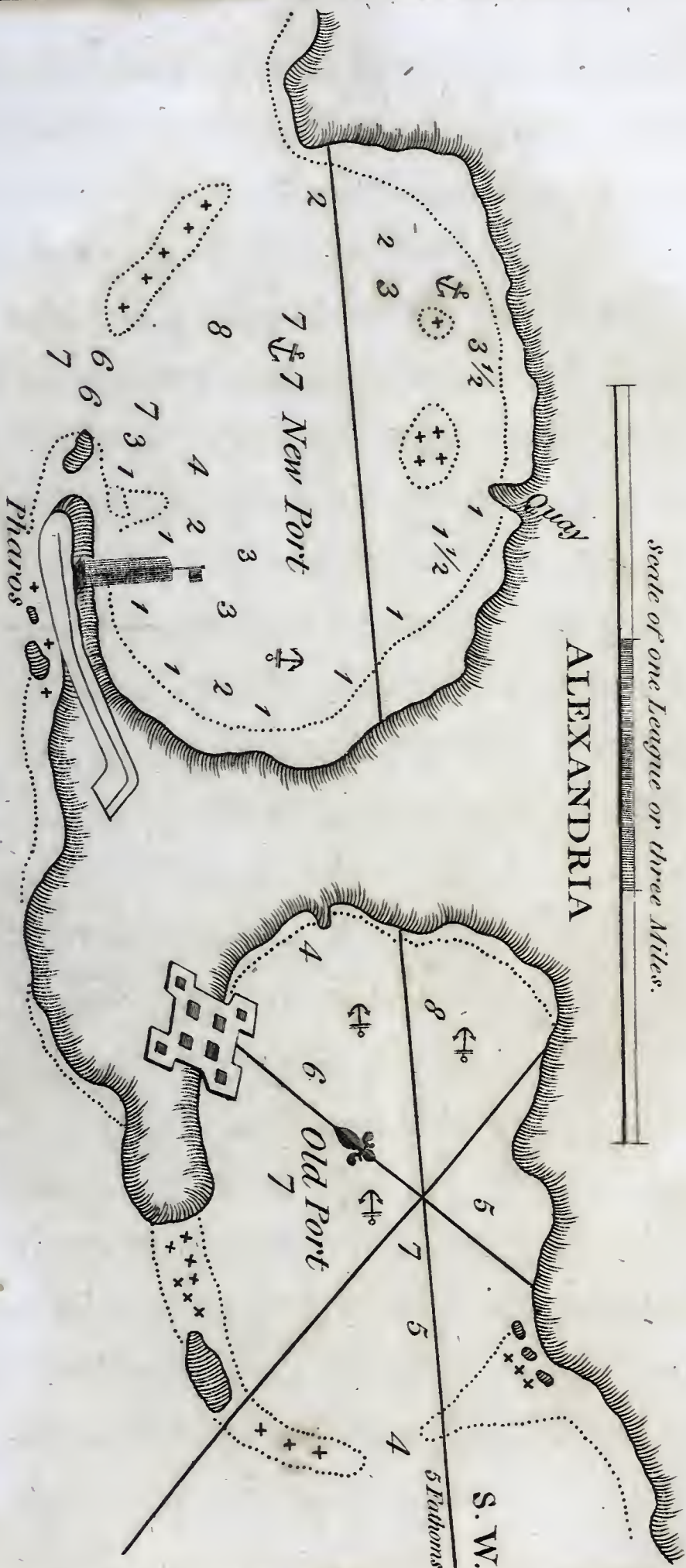
The New Port or Harbour is larger and deeper than the old one; but we have already adverted to the cause that has been gradually ruining *that*. In its present state, however, it receives Turkish ships of war, of 74 guns, which, though more bulky than our ships of the same force, may, as it is supposed, anchor there in safety; at least in fine weather.

Such is the state of the city in which the Hero of Italy, as it is thought, has erected the standard of his glory, or may find the termination of his exploits.

The *Isthmus of Suez*, which separates the Red from the Mediterranean Sea, is one of those objects to which Buonaparte's expedition has called the public attention.

Scale of one League or three Miles.

ALEXANDRIA



Europe has long entertained the project of cutting through that Isthmus, in order to make a shorter course to India than by the *Cape of Good Hope*. This operation appeared, at first view, practicable, from the small extent of the *Isthmus*, which is not more than from eighteen to twenty leagues of champaign country.

The first difficulty, however, which opposes itself to the junction of the two seas is the difference of the levels ; the Red Sea being more elevated than the Mediterranean ; as in the canal of *Calzoum* to that sea the Nile falls thirty leagues.

The second difficulty is, that in those parts where the seas unite the shore is deep and sandy, and the necks of land are so dangerous that vessels cannot come within three miles of the coast. There is no water within ten miles, and that is very brackish, and drawn from a well. Besides all this,

how is it possible to effect a durable canal upon moving sands?

In addition to these obstacles, harbours must be constructed; the land is destitute of water, and to draw it from the *Nile* would require much time, and create an enormous expence.

But notwithstanding all that has been said, the junction of the two seas may not be altogether impracticable, if united by means of the *Nile*.

Ptolemy, the son of *Lagus*, and first King of Egypt, raised the power and splendor of Alexandria, which he knew had been built by Alexander, with a view to carry on a trade to India. And in order to make the navigation more secure, he erected the celebrated light-house at *Pharos*; a work so magnificent, that it has been reckoned one of the wonders of the world. His son, *Ptolemy Philadelphus*, prosecuted the same

plan with equal vigour. In his time, the Indian commerce once more began to centre in *Tyre*; but to remove it effectually from thence, he formed a *Canal* between *Arsinoe* on the *Red Sea*, not far from the place where *Suez* now stands, and the *Pelusiatic*, or eastern branch of the *Nile*. This Canal was 100 cubits broad, and 30 deep; so that by means of it, the productions of India might have been conveyed to Alexandria entirely by water. It is doubtful whether this work was ever completed; or whether it was found useless, on account of the dangerous navigation towards the northern extremity of the *Red Sea*;* but, whatever was

* The extreme danger of navigating the *Red Sea* in ancient times, which, even in the present improved state of navigation, is not entirely got over, seems to have been the principal reason which induced *Ptolemy* to remove the communication with India from *Arsinoe* to *Berenice*, as there were other harbours on the same coast, considerably nearer the *Nile* than it. After the ruin of *Coptos* by the Emperor *Dioclesian*, the Indian commodities were conveyed from the *Red Sea* to the *Nile* from *Cosseir*, supposed by *Dr.*

the cause, it is certain that no use was made of it ; and a new city named *Berenice*, situated almost under the tropic, upon the western shore of the *Red Sea*, became the staple of Indian commerce. From thence goods were transported by land to Coptos, a city distant only three miles from the Nile, to which it was joined by a canal. But even then, there was a very tedious land-carriage of no less than 258 Roman miles, through the barren desart of *Thebais* : but Ptolemy caused diligent search to be made every where for springs, and wherever these were found, he built Inns or *Caravanseras*, for the accommodation of travellers ; hence the commerce

Robertson to be the *Phileteras Portus* of Ptolemy, to *Cous*, the *Vicus Apollinus*, a journey of four days. Hence *Cous*, from a small village, became an opulent city ; but, in process of time, the trade from India removed from *Cous* to *Kene*, farther down the river. In modern times, such Indian goods as are brought by the *Red Sea*, come from *Jidda* to *Suez*, and are carried across the Isthmus upon camels, or brought by the caravans returning from the pilgrimage to *Mecca*.

with India was carried on till Egypt became subject to the Romans.

It would be merely hazarding an opinion founded on no other basis than conjecture, to venture a supposition that Buonaparte has taken Alexandria, with a view, first, of revolutionizing the East, and then monopolizing all the trade in favour of France.—Difficulties on this head arise in every quarter, to an observant mind. In the first place, we must pre-suppose, ere this scheme can be effected, that our navy will sink inferior to that of France, and that we must give up to that ambitious power the dominion of the Mediterranean. Alexandria would be of little consequence to the French if the rich spoils of the East were to fall a prey to the British Navy.

But admitting that the French have it in view to carry this plan into execution, it is to be presumed that they intend to bring it about by more equitable means

than rapine, plunder, and exaction. It is hardly to be supposed, that they have it in contemplation to set up republics in Asia and Africa, as well as in Europe. The prejudices of a people bigotted to their own forms of government will prove a barrier to this; and Buonaparte and his veteran army will most assuredly fail in the attempt.

If his expedition be directed against our East India settlements, the most effectual method of accomplishing this will be by embarking his army on the Red Sea; but where are his shipping? Unless these have been provided, he will find himself at a loss. It is hardly to be supposed that he will have it in his power to seize upon a fleet sufficiently numerous to carry him and his army and ammunition, &c. across the Indian Ocean.*

* It is by no means improbable that he has taken some rafts with him; and if he seriously has it in contemplation to embark his army on the Red Sea, he may prosecute his expedition. The author of this pamphlet has seen the draft

But a foreign army could not maintain itself in Alexandria, the country about it is without water. This must be brought from the *Nile* by the Kalidi, or Canal of Faoue, of twelve leagues, which conveys it thither every year at the time of the inundation. It fills the vaults or reservoirs dug under the ancient city, and this provision must serve till the next year. It is evident, therefore, that if this canal were shut against a foreign power, all supplies of water would be cut off. It is by this canal alone that Alexandria is connected with Egypt ; for, from its situation without the *Delta*, and the nature of the soil, it really belongs to the desarts of Africa. Its environs are sandy, flat, and sterile, without trees and without houses ; where nothing is to be met with but the plant which yields the *Kali*, and a row of palm

of a raft which is far superior to any conjectural building that has hitherto been published. The plan of the raft alluded to is on a mathematical construction, drawn by Le Blanc, and is certainly the most feasible thing of the kind.

trees, which skirts the course of the Kalidi or Canal.

It was to the monopoly of Indian commerce that Egypt owed its vast wealth and power during the time of its Macedonian Monarchs; and on the conquest of Egypt by the Romans, the Indian commodities continued, as usual, to be imported to Rome; but besides this, the most ancient communication betwixt the eastern and western parts of Asia seems never to have been given up.

Certain it is, that the situation of Alexandria is such, that provided the commerce of the East could be turned towards Egypt, and that city be made the mart for all its commodities, great advantages indeed must accrue to the nation to which it might belong.

Having given an historical account of Alexandria, and pointed out the advantages arising from its situation, should it ever be-

come the mart for the produce of the East, I shall add a description of the city in the state Buonaparte found it, and subjoin a brief detail of the remains of its former splendor.

The city of Alexandria has been governed like others in subjection to the Grand Signior. It had a small garrison of soldiers, part of which were Janissaries and Asaffs, who are haughty and insolent, not only to strangers, but to the mercantile and industrious part of the community, however considerable their industry may have rendered them. The government is so remiss in favour of these wretches, that Mr. *Noden* informs us, one of them did not hesitate to kill a farmer of the customs, for refusing to take less of him than the duty imposed, and escaped unpunished.* It is a common *salvo* among them, that what is done cannot be undone.

* Unlimited, as the authority of the Sultan is, he still finds it necessary to preserve measures with the Janissaries,

The present condition of Alexandria is very despicable, being now so far ruined, that the rubbish in many places overtops the houses.

The famous tower of *Pharos* has long since been demolished, and a castle, called *Farillon*, built in its place. The causeway that joined the island to the continent is broken down, and its place supplied by a stone bridge of several arches.*

who are the standing army of the empire, and who, although dispersed through various parts of the country, are firmly united by one common indissoluble bond of interest and self preservation. The frequent revolutions, which have been occasioned by their intrigues, furnish the clearest proof of their power and influence. These men enjoy great privileges, and are very much respected by the common people. But they are totally degenerated from what they formerly were. They now neglect those exercises which enured them to fatigue, which augmented their agility and strength, and taught them all the duties of soldiers. *Orchan* was the original institutor of this military corps. It ought to consist of 160 regiments of 1000 men each, but it always falls very far short of that number.

Hunter's Travels.

* Hic ubi disjectas moles, avulsaque saxis,
Saxa vides.—————

VIRG.

Some parts of the old walls of the city are yet standing, and present us with a masterpiece of ancient masonry. They are flanked with large towers, about two hundred paces from each other, with small ones in the middle; below are magnificent casements, which may serve for galleries to walk in. In the lower part of the towers is a large square hall, whose roof is supported by thick columns of Thebaic stone. Above these are several rooms, over which are platforms more than twenty paces square. The ancient reservoirs, vaulted with so much art, which extended under the whole town, are almost entire, at the end of two thousand years.

Of Cæsar's palace there remain only a few porphyry pillars, and the front, which is almost entire, and looks very beautiful. The palace of *Cleopatra* was built upon the walls facing the port, having a gallery on the outside, supported by several fine columns — Not far from this place are two obelisks, vulgarly called *Cleopatra's Needles*; they are

of Thebaic stone, and covered with hieroglyphics; one is overturned, broken, and lying under the sand; the other is on its pedestal. These two obelisks, each of them of a single stone, are about sixty feet high by seven feet square at the base. Towards the gate of Rosetta * are five columns of marble, on the place formerly occupied by the porticoes of the Gymnasium. The rest of the colonnade, the design of which was discoverable one hundred years ago, by *Maillet*, has since been destroyed by the barbarism of the Turks.

But what engages the attention of travellers is the Pillar of Pompey, as it is com-

* Rosetta is quite defenceless. The canal of this branch of the river is narrow: it admits only boats which draw five feet water. On the bar there is a considerable swell; and it is often for many days impassable, both on account of the swell and accumulation of sand, which, however, is soon washed away. The approach by land is difficult, being surrounded by a desert, and the environs of the town admit of being strongly fortified.

monly called, situated at a quarter of a league from the southern gate. It is composed of red granite. The capital is Corinthian, with palm trees, and not indented. It is nine feet high. The shaft and the upper member of the base are of one piece of ninety feet long, and nine in diameter. The base is a square of fifteen feet on each side. This block of marble, sixty feet in circumference, rests on two layers of stone bound together with lead, which, however, has not prevented the Arabs from forcing out several of them, to search for imaginary treasure. The whole column is one hundred and fourteen feet high : it is perfectly well polished; and only a little shivered on the eastern side. Nothing can equal the majesty of this monument: seen from a distance, it overtops the town, and serves as a signal for vessels. Approaching it nearer, it produces an astonishment mixed with awe. The beauty of the capital, the length of the shaft, the extraordinary simplicity of the pedestal, at once excite admiration. The

last has been somewhat damaged by the instruments of travellers, curious about possessing relics of antiquity. One of the volutes of the column was immaturely brought down about twelve years ago by a wanton prank of some English officers.*

Learned men and travellers have made many fruitless attempts to discover in honour of what Prince this pillar was erected. The best informed have concluded that it could not be to perpetuate the fame of Pompey, since neither *Strabo* nor *Diodorus Siculus* have spoken of it. The Arabian *Abulfeda*, in his description of Egypt, calls it the *Pillar of Severus*: and we are informed by an historian,† that this Emperor “ visited the city of *Alexandria*; that he granted a senate to its inhabitants, who,

* It is related at length by Mr. Irwin in his *Voyage and Route*, p. 370.

† Spartian, in his *Life of Severus*, chap. xvii.

until that time, under the subjection of a single Roman Magistrate, had lived without a national council, as under the reign of the Ptolemies, when the will of the Prince was their only law ; that he did not confine his benefactions there : he changed several laws in their favour.”* This column, therefore, is concluded, by the author of this quotation, to have been erected by the inhabitants, as a mark of their gratitude to Severus : and in a Greek inscription, now half effaced, but visible on the west side, when the sun shines upon it, and which, probably, was legible in the time of *Abulfeda*, he supposes the name of *Severus* to have been preserved. The same author observes, that this was not the only monument erected to him by the gratitude of the Alexandrians ; for there is still in the midst of the ruins of *Antinoë*, built by Adrian, a magnificent pillar, the inscription on which is still remaining, dedicated to *Alexander Severus*.

* Mr. Savary.

On the south-west side of the city, at the distance of one mile, are situated the Catacombs, the ancient burial-place of *Alexandria*; and although they cannot be compared to those of the ancient *Memphis*, which the Arabs will not permit to be visited, in order to make the better market of their mummies; it is probable that, the method of embalming them being the same, the form of these Catacombs can only differ in their proportions.*

About seventy paces from Pompey's Pillar is the Khalis, or the Canal of the Nile, which was dug by the ancient Egyptians,†

* Baron de Tott, in describing these, observes, "that Nature not having furnished this part of Egypt with a ridge of rocks, like that which runs parallel with the Nile above Delta, the ancient inhabitants of Alexandria could only have an imitation by digging into a bed of solid rock; and thus they formed Necropolis, or city of the dead."

† Sesostris effected this canal, 170 feet in depth, sufficient to bear the great vessels of that time. He carried it from the verge of the Red Sea, and stretched it along to where the river discharges itself at Cairo. The Ptolemies

to convey the water of the Nile to Alexandria, and fill the cisterns under the city. On one side of the Khalis are gardens full of orange and lemon, and the fields abound with caper and palm trees. On the top of a hill is a tower, on which a centinel is placed, to give notice, by means of a flag, of the ships that are coming into the port. From this hill is a prospect of the sea, the whole extent of the city, and of the circumjacent parts.

In going along the sea coast there is a large bason cut out of the rock that skirts the shore. On the sides of this bason two beautiful saloons are hewn out by the chissel, with benches that run across them. A canal, made zig-zag for the purpose of stopping the sand by its windings, conveys into them

restored it, and so did Trajan. Amrou put it in a state of repair under the Khalifs. The traces of it are still visible; but it is an operation which may not, perhaps, suit the hasty objects of the French.

the water of the sea as pure and transparent as crystal. Seated on the stone bench, the water rises a little above the waist, while the feet softly repose on a fine sand. The waves of the sea are heard roaring against the rock, and foaming in the canal. The swell enters, raises the body up, and leaves it ; and thus alternately entering and retiring, brings a continual fresh supply of water, and a coolness which is truly delicious under a burning sky. This place is vulgarly called the *Bath of Cleopatra*. Some ruins announce that it was formerly ornamented.

Alexandria is about 50 leagues north of Cairo, E. long. $31^{\circ} 15'$. N. lat. $31^{\circ} 12'$.

PARTICULARS

RELATING TO THE

NAVIGATION OF THE RED SEA.

THE *Red Sea*, or *Arabic Gulph*, so much celebrated in sacred history, and so much now the object of enquiry, separates Arabia from Upper Ethiopia and part of Egypt. This sea is 350 leagues in length, and 40 in breadth. As no river falls into it of sufficient force to counteract the influence of the tide, it is more affected by the motions of the great ocean than by any of the inland seas nearly in the same latitude. It is not much exposed to tempests: the winds usually blow from north to south, and being periodical, like the monsoons of India, invariably determine the season of sailing into or out of this sea. It is divided into two gulphs; that to the east was called the *Ælanitic Gulph*, from the city *Ælana* at the north end of it; and that to the west the *Heroopolitic*, from the

city of Heroopolis ; the former of which belongs to Arabia, and the latter to Egypt.

Mr. Bruce says, that “ all the western shore is bold, and has more depth of water than the east ; but on this side there is neither anchoring ground nor shoals. It is rocky, with a considerable depth of water, which, though not visible, are sufficiently near the surface to destroy a large ship.” The cause of this, in the opinion of this author, is, that the mountains on the side of Abyssinia and Egypt are all of hard stone, porphyry, many different kinds of marble, granite, alabaster, and basaltes. These being all composed of solid materials, therefore can part with very little dust or sand, which might otherwise be blown from them into the sea. On the opposite coast, viz. that of Hejaz and Tahamah on the Arabian side, the whole consists of moving sands, a large quantity of which is blown from the south-east by the dry winter monsoons, which being lodged among the rocks on that

side, and confined there by the north-east, or summer monsoon, which is in a contrary direction, hinders them from coming over to the Egyptian side. Hence the western coast is full of sunken rocks, for want of sand to cover them, with which they would otherwise become islands. They are naked and bare all round, with sharp points like spears; while, on the east side, every rock becomes an island, and every two or three islands become an harbour.

On the ends of the principal of these harbours the people have piled up great heaps of stones to serve as signals. “And it is there,” says Mr. Bruce, “that the large vessels from Cairo to Jidda, equal in size to our large 74 gun ships (but, from the cisterns of mason-work built within for holding water, nearly double their weight) after navigating their portion of the channel in the day-time, come safely and quietly to an anchor at four o’clock in the afternoon, and

in these little harbours pass the night, to sail again next morning into the channel."

The western channel of the Red Sea was chosen, in the days of the Ptolemies, for the track of the Indian and African. These monarchs erected a great number of cities all along the western coast, and notwithstanding the dangers of the navigation, we do not hear that it was ever abandoned on account of them.

From the observations made by Mr. Bruce on the navigation of the Red Sea, he undertakes to point out a safe passage for large ships to the Gulph of Suez, so that they may be able to judge of the propriety of their own course themselves, without trusting implicitly to the pilots they meet with, who are often ignorant of their profession. This sea, according to this author, may be divided into four parts, of which the channel occupies two, till near the latitude of 26 degrees,

or that of Cosseir. On the west it is deep water, with many rocks; and on the east it is full of islands, as we have already stated. Between these islands there are channels and harbours of deep water, where ships may be protected in any wind; but a pilot is necessary in sailing among those from Mocha to Suez, and the voyage, besides, can be continued only during part of the day. Ships bound to Suez without the consent of the Sheriffe of Mecca, that is, without any intention of selling their cargo at Jidda, or of paying custom there, ought to take in their fresh water at Mocha; or if there be any reason against this, a few hours will carry them to Azab or Saba, on the Abyssinian coast, where they may be plentifully supplied: but it must be remembered "that the people here are *Galla*, the most treacherous and villainous wretches upon earth." Here not only water may be procured, but plenty of sheep and goats, with some myrrh and incense in the proper season. Great caution, however, must be used in dealing

with the people, as even those of Mocha, who are absolutely necessary to them in their commercial dealings, cannot trust them without surety or hostages. Some years ago the surgeon and mate of the Elgin East Indiaman, with several other sailors, were murdered by these savages, as they went ashore to purchase myrrh, though they had a letter of safe conduct from the *Shekh*.

To such as do not want to be known, Mr. Bruce recommends a low black island on the coast of Arabia, named *Cameran*, in lat. $15^{\circ} 30'$. It is distinguished by a white house or fortress on the west end of it, where water is to be had in still greater plenty than at Azab; but no provisions, or such only as are very bad, can be procured. If it is necessary not to be seen at all on the coast, the island of *Foosht* is recommended as having excellent water, with a saint or a monk, whose office it is to keep the wells clean. This is one of the chain of islands which stretches almost across the gulph, from

Loheia to Masuah, and from actual observation is found to be situated in N. lat. $15^{\circ} 59' 43''$. E. long. $42^{\circ} 47'$. From this to Yambo there is a safe watering-place; but there is an absolute necessity for having a pilot upon arriving at *Ras Mahomet*; because over the *Ælanitic Gulph*, the mountains of Aucha, and the Cape itself, there is often a thick haze, which lasts for many days together, and a number of ships are lost by mistaking the eastern bay, or *Ælanitic Gulph*, for the entrance of the *Gulph of Suez*; the former has a ridge of rocks nearly across it. After reaching *Sheduan*, a large island about three leagues farther in a N. by W. direction, there is a bare rock, distinguished by no particular name, but so situated that ships ought not to come within three leagues of it. This rock is to be left to the westward, at the distance just mentioned; after passing which there are shoals, forming broad channels, with soundings from fifteen to twenty fathoms; and again, on standing directly for

Tor, there are two other oval sands, with sunk rocks in the channel, between which it is necessary to steer. Tor may be known at a distance by two hills that stand near the water-side, which in clear weather may be seen six leagues off. Just to the south-east of these is the town and harbour, where there are some palm trees about the houses, the more remarkable, as being the first that are seen on the coast. Tor itself is but a small village, with a convent of monks belonging to those of Mount Sinai. It was taken by Don John de Castro, and fortified soon after its discovery by the Portuguese; but has never since been a place of any consideration; serving only for a watering-place to the ships trading to and from Suez.*

* From this place there is a distinct view of Mounts Horeb and Sinai, which appear above and behind the others, with their tops frequently covered with snow in the winter.

HISTORICAL ACCOUNT

OF

EGYPT.

EGYPT is 600 miles long and 250 broad. It is situated between the 20th and 32d degree of North latitude, and 28th and 36th of East longitude : bounded by the Mediterranean Sea, on the North ; by the Red Sea, on the East ; by Abyssinia, or the Upper Ethiopia, on the South ; and by the desert of Barca, and the unknown parts of Africa, on the West.

It is divided into two divisions, Lower and Upper Egypt. The former is the Northern division, and has for its chief towns,—Grand Cairo (E. long. 32. N. lat. 30.) Bulac, Alexandria, Rosetto, and Damietta. The latter

is the Southern division, of which Sayd or Thebes and Cossiar are the chief towns.

AIR.

In April and May the air is hot, and often infectious; and the inhabitants are almost blinded with drifts of sand. These evils are remedied by the rising and overflowing of the Nile.

SOIL AND PRODUCE.

Whoever is in the least acquainted with literature, knows that the vast fertility of Egypt is not owing to rain, (little falling in that country) but to the annual overflowing of the Nile. It begins to rise when the sun is vertical in Ethiopia, and the annual rains fall there, viz. from the latter end of May to September, and sometimes October. At the height of its flood in the Lower Egypt, nothing is to be seen in the plains but the tops of forests and fruit-trees, their towns and

villages being built upon eminences either natural or artificial. When the river is at its proper height, the inhabitants celebrate a kind of jubilee, with all sorts of festivities. The banks or mounds which confine it are cut by the Turkish Basha, attended by his grandees ; but according to Captain *Norden*, who was present on the occasion, the spectacle is not very magnificent. When the banks are cut, the water is led into what they call the *Khalis*, or Grand Canal, which runs through Cairo, from whence it is distributed into cuts, for supplying their fields and gardens. This being done, and the waters beginning to retire, such is the fertility of the soil, that the labour of the husbandman is next to nothing. He throws his wheat and barley into the ground in October and May. He turns his cattle out to graze in November, and in about six weeks, nothing can be more charming than the prospect which the face of the country presents, in rising corn, vegetables, and verdure of every sort. Oranges, lemons, and fruits, perfume the air. The

culture of pulse, melons, sugar canes, and other plants, which require moisture, is supplied by small but regular cuts from cisterns and reservoirs. Dates, plantanes, grapes, figs, and palm-trees, from which wine is made, are here plentiful. March and April are the harvest months, and they produce three crops ; one of lettuces and cucumbers, (the latter being the chief food of the inhabitants,) one of corn, and one of melons. The Egyptian pasturage is equally prolific, most of the quadrupeds producing two at a time, and the sheep four lambs a year.

ANIMALS.

Egypt abounds in black cattle ; and it is said that the inhabitants employ every day 200,000 oxen in raising water for their grounds. They have a fine large breed of asses, upon which the Christians ride, those people not being suffered by the Turks to ride on any other beast. The Egyptian horses are very fine ; they never trot, but

walk well, and gallop with great speed, turn short, stop in a moment, and are extremely tractable. The hippopotamus, or the river horse, an amphibious animal, resembling an ox in its hinder parts, with the head like a horse, is common in Upper Egypt. Tygers, hyenas, camels, antelopes, apes, with the head like a dog, and the rat, called icheumon, are natives of Egypt. The camelion, a little animal something resembling a lizard, that changes colour as you stand to look upon him, is found here as well as in other countries. The crocodile was formerly thought peculiar to this country ; but there does not seem to be any material difference between it and the alligators of India and America. They are both amphibious animals, in the form of a lizard, and grow till they are about twenty feet in length, and have four short legs, with large feet armed with claws, and their backs are covered with a kind of impenetrable scales like armour. The crocodile waits for his prey in the sedge, and other cover, on the sides of rivers ; and, pretty

much resembling the trunk of an old tree, sometimes surprises the unwary traveller with his fore paws, and beats him down with his tail.

This country produces likewise great numbers of eagles, hawks, pelicans, and water-fowls of all kinds. The ibis, a creature, (according to Mr. *Norden*) somewhat resembling a duck, was deified by the ancient Egyptians for its destroying serpents and pestiferous insects. They were thought to be peculiar to Egypt, but a species of them is said to have been lately discovered in other parts of Africa. Ostriches are common here, and are so strong, that the Arabs sometimes ride upon their backs.

POPULATION, DRESS, &c.

As the population of Egypt is almost confined to the banks of the Nile, and the rest of the country inhabited by Arabs and other nations, we can say little upon this head with

precision. It seems, however, to be certain, that Egypt is at present not near so populous as formerly, and that its depopulation is owing to the inhabitants being slaves to the Turks.

The descendants of the original Egyptians are an ill-looking slovenly people, immersed in indolence, and are distinguished by the name of Coptis: in their complexions they are rather sun-burnt than swarthy or black. Their ancestors were once Christians, and, in general, they still pretend to be of that religion; but Mahometanism is the prevailing worship among the natives. Those who inhabit the villages and fields, at any considerable distance from the Nile, consist of Arabs or their descendants, who are of a deep swarthy complexion, and they are represented by the best authorities as retaining the patriarchal tending their flocks, and many of them without any fixed place of abode. The Turks, who reside in Egypt,

retain all their Ottoman pride and insolence, as well as the Turkish habit, to distinguish themselves from the Arabs and Coptis, who dress very plain; their chief finery is an upper garment of white linen, and linen drawers; but their ordinary dress is of blue linen, with a long cloth coat, either over or under it. The Christians and Arabs of the meaner kind content themselves with a linen or woollen wrapper, which they fold, blanket-like, round their body. The Jews wear blue leather slippers, the other natives of their country wear red, and the foreign Christians yellow. The dress of the women is tawdry and unbecoming; but their cloaths are silk, when they can afford it; and such of them as are not exposed to the sun, have delicate complexions and features. The Coptis are generally excellent accountants, and many of them live by teaching the other natives to read and write. Their exercises and diversions are much the same as those made use of in Persia, and other Asiatic dominions.

All Egypt is over-run with jugglers, fortune-tellers, mountebanks, and travelling slight of hand men. *

RELIGION.

Concerning the religion of Egypt it is proper to add, that the bulk of the Mahometans are enthusiasts, and have among them their *Santos*, who pretend to a superior degree of holiness, and without any ceremony intrude into the best houses, where it would be dangerous to turn them out. The Egyptian Turks mind religious affairs very little, and it would be hard to say what species of Christianity is professed by the Christian Coptis, which are here numerous; but they profess themselves to be of the Greek church, and enemies to that of Rome. In religious, and indeed in many civil matters, they are under the jurisdiction of the patriarch of Alexandria, who by the dint of money generally

* A charming set for revolutionists and republicans !

purchases a protection at the Ottoman Court.

LANGUAGE.

The Coptic is the most ancient language of Egypt. This was succeeded by the Greek, about the time of Alexander the Great; and that by the Arabic, upon the commencement of the Califate, when the Arabs dispossessed the Greeks of Egypt. The Arabic, or Arabesque, as it is called, is still the current language, but the Coptic and modern Greek continue to be spoken.

LEARNING.

Though it is past dispute that the Greeks derived all their knowledge from the ancient Egyptians, yet scarcely a vestige of it remains among their descendants. This is owing to the bigotry and ignorance of their Mahometan masters; but here it is proper to make one observation, which is of general use. The Khalifs or Saracens who subdued Egypt

were of three kinds. The first, who were the immediate successors of Mahomet, made war from conscience and principle upon all kinds of literature, excepting the Koran ; and hence it was, that when they took possession of Alexandria, which contained the most magnificent library the world ever beheld, its valuable manuscripts were applied for some months in cooking their victuals, and warming their baths.* The same fate attended upon the other magnificent Egyptian libraries. The Khalifs of the second race were men of taste and learning, but of a peculiar strain. They bought up all the manuscripts that survived the general conflagration, relating to astronomy, medicine, and some useful parts of philosophy ; but they had no taste for the Greek arts ;—for architecture, sculpture, painting, or poetry ;—and learning was confined to their own courts and colleges, without ever finding its way back to Egypt. The lower race of Khalifs, especially those

* See the Account of Alexandria.

who called themselves Khalifs of Egypt, disgraced human nature; and the Turks have rivetted the chains of barbarous ignorance which they imposed.

All the learning, therefore, possessed by the modern Egyptians consists in arithmetical calculations for the dispatch of business, the jargon of astrology, a few nostrums in medicine, and some knowledge of Arabesque or the Mahometan religion.

CURIOSITIES.

Egypt abounds more with these than perhaps any other part of the world. Its pyramids have been often described. Their antiquity is beyond the researches of history itself, and their original uses are still unknown. The basis of the largest covers eleven acres of ground, and its perpendicular height is 500 feet, but if measured obliquely to the terminating point, 700 feet. It contains a room thirty-four feet long, and

seventeen broad, in which is a marble chest, but without either cover or contents, supposed to have been designed for the tomb of the founder. In short, the pyramids of Egypt are the most stupenduous, and, to appearance, the most useless structures that ever were raised by the hands of men.

The mummy pits, so called for their containing the mummies or embalmed bodies of the ancient Egyptians, are subterraneous vaults of a prodigious extent ; but the art of preparing the mummies is now lost. It is said that some of the bodies thus embalmed are perfect and distinct at this day, though buried 3000 years ago. The labyrinth is a curiosity thought to be more wonderful than the pyramids themselves. It is partly underground, and cut out of a marble rock, consisting of twelve palaces, and 1000 houses, the intricacies of which occasion its name. The lake Mæris was dug by order of an Egyptian king, to correct the irregularities of the Nile, and to communicate with that

river by canals and ditches, which still subsist, and are evidences of the utility, as well as grandeur of the work. Wonderful grottos and excavations, mostly artificial, abound in Egypt. The whole country towards Grand Cairo is a continued scene of antiquities, of which the oldest are the most stupendous, but the more modern the most beautiful.

The papyrus is one of the natural curiosities of Egypt, and served the ancients to write upon, but we know not the manner of preparing it. The pith of it is a nourishing food. The manner of hatching chickens in ovens is common in Egypt, and now practised in some parts of Europe. The construction of the oven is very curious.

TOWNS, PUBLIC EDIFICES, &c.

Even a slight review of these would amount to a large volume. In many places, not only temples, but the walls of cities, built before the time of Alexander the Great, are still

entire, and many of their ornaments, particularly the colours of their paintings, are as fresh and vivid as when first laid on.

Of Alexandria we have given an ample account already; it stands forty miles west from the Nile, and a hundred and twenty north-west of Cairo.

Rosetta, or Raschid, stands twenty-five miles to the north-west of Alexandria, and is recommended for its beautiful situation and delightful prospects, which command the fine country, or island of Delta, formed by the Nile, near its mouth. It is likewise a place of great trade.

Cairo, now Masr, the present capital of Egypt, is a large and populous, but a disagreeable residence, on account of its pestilential air, and its narrow streets. It is divided into two towns, the Old and the New, and defended by an old castle, the works of which are said to be three miles in circum-

ference. This castle is said to have been built by Saladine : at the west end are the remains of very noble apartments, some of which are covered with domes, and adorned with pictures in Mosaic work ; but these apartments are now only used for weaving embroidery, and preparing the hangings and coverings annually sent to Mecca. The well, called Joseph's Well, is a curious piece of mechanism, about 300 feet deep. The memory of that patriarch is still revered in Egypt, where they show granaries, and many other works of public utility, that go under his name. They are certainly of vast antiquity ; but it is very questionable whether they were erected by him. One of his granaries is shewn in Old Cairo, but Captain *Norden* suspects it is a Saracen work, nor does he give us any high idea of the buildings of the city itself. On the bank of the Nile, facing Cairo, lies the village of Gizie, which is thought to be the ancient Memphis. The Christians of Cairo practise a holy cheat, during the Easter holidays, by pretending

that the limbs and bodies of the dead arise from their graves, to which they return peaceably. The streets of Cairo are pestered with the jugglers and fortune-tellers already mentioned. One of their favourite exhibitions is their dancing camels, which, when young, they place upon a large heated floor : the intense heat makes the poor creatures caper, and being plied all the time with the sound of drums, the noise of that instrument sets them a dancing all their lives after.

The other towns of note in Egypt are Damietta, supposed to be the ancient Pelusium ; Bulac ; Sayd, on the west bank of the Nile, 200 miles south of Cairo, said to be the ancient Egyptian Thebes ; and by the few who have visited it, it is reported to be the most capital antique curiosity that is now extant. The general practice of strangers who visit those places, is to hire a Janizary, whose authority commonly protects them from the insults of the other natives. Suez, formerly a place of great trade, is now a

small city, and gives name to the Isthmus that joins Africa with Asia. The children of Israel are supposed to have marched near this city, when they left Egypt, in their way towards the Red Sea.

MANUFACTURES, &c.

The Egyptians export great quantities of unmanufactured as well as prepared flax, thread, cotton, and leather of all sorts, calicoes, yellow wax, sal ammoniac, saffron, sugar, sena, and cassia. They trade with the Arabs for coffee, drugs, spices, calicoes, and other merchandizes, articles of great importance to Europe, which are landed at Suez, whence they send them to Europe. Several European states have Consuls resident in Egypt, but the customs of the Turkish government are managed by Jews. A number of English vessels arrive yearly at Alexandria; some of which are laden on account of the owners, but most of them are hired and employed as carriers to the Jews, Armenians, and Mahometan traders.

GOVERNMENT.

The government of Egypt is both monarchical and republican. The monarchical is executed by the Pacha, and the republican by the Mamalucks or Sangiacks. The Pacha is appointed by the Grand Signior as his Viceroy. The republican, or rather the aristocratical part of the government of Egypt, consists of a Divan, composed of twenty-four Sangiacks, Beys, or Lords. The head of them is called the Sheik Bellet, who is chosen by the Divan, and confirmed by the Pacha. Every one of these Sangiacks is arbitrary in his own territory, and exerts sovereign power: the major part of them reside at Cairo. If the Grand Signior's Pacha acts in opposition to the sense of the Divan, or attempts to violate their privileges, they will not suffer him to continue in his post; and they have an authentic grant of privileges, dated in the year 1517, in which year Sultan Selim conquered Egypt from the Mamalucks.

REVENUES.

These are very inconsiderable, when compared to the natural riches of the country and the despotism of its government. Some say that they amount to a million sterling, but that two-thirds of the whole is spent in the country.

MILITARY STRENGTH.

Authors are greatly divided on this article. Mr. Norden tells us, that it is divided into two corps of Janizaries, and Assafs are the chief; the former amounting to about five thousand, and the latter to between three and four thousand. The other troops are of little account. After all, it does not appear that the Pacha ever ventures to employ those troops against the Arab or Egyptian Princes, who have separate armies of their own; so that, in fact, their dependence upon the Porte is little more than nominal, and amounts at most to feudal services.

HISTORY.

It is generally agreed, that the princes of the line of the Pharaohs sat on the throne of Egypt, in an uninterrupted succession, till Cambyses II. King of Persia, conquered the Egyptians, 520 years before the birth of Christ ; and that in the reign of these Princes, those wonderful structures the pyramids were raised, which cannot be viewed without astonishment. Egypt continued a part of the Persian empire till Alexander the Great vanquished Darius, when it fell under the dominion of that Prince, who soon after built the celebrated City of Alexandria. The conquests of Alexander, who died in the prime of life, being seized upon by his Generals, the province of Egypt fell to the share of Ptolemy, by some supposed to have been a half-brother of Alexander, when it again became an independent kingdom, about 300 years before Christ. His successors, who sometimes extended their dominions over

great part of Syria, ever after retained the name of Ptolemies, and in that line Egypt continued between two and three hundred years, till the famous Cleopatra, the wife and sister of Ptolemy Dionysius, the last king, ascended the throne. After the death of Cleopatra, who had been mistress successively to Julius Cæsar and Mark Antony, Egypt became a Roman province, and thus remained till the reign of Omar, the second Khalif of the successors of Mahomet, who expelled the Romans, after it had been in their hands 700 years. Ptolemy Philadelphus, who collected the famous library of Alexandria, caused the Old Testament to be translated into Greek: this translation is known by the name of Septuagint. About the time of the crusades, between the years 1150 and 1190, Egypt was governed by Noreddin, whose son, the famous Saladine, was so dreadful to the Christian adventurers, and re-took from them Jerusalem. He instituted the military corps of Mamalucks, who, about the

year 1242, advanced one of their own officers to the throne, and ever after chose their prince out of their own body. Egypt, for some time, made a figure under those illustrious usurpers, and made a noble stand against the prevailing power of the Turks, under Selim, who, after giving the Mamelucks several bloody defeats, reduced Egypt to its present state of subjection.

While Selim was settling the government of Egypt, great numbers of the ancient inhabitants withdrew into the deserts and plains, under one Zinganeus, from whence they attacked the cities and villages of the Nile, and plundered whatever fell in their way. Selim and his officers perceiving that it would be a matter of great difficulty to extirpate those marauders, left them at liberty to quit the country, which they did in great numbers; and their posterity is known all over Europe and Asia by the name of Gipsies.

An attempt was made some years since, to deprive the Ottoman Porte of its authority over Egypt, by Ali Bey, whose father was a priest of the Greek church, but who having turned Mahometan, and being a man of abilities and address, had rendered himself extremely popular in Egypt. A false accusation having been made against him to the Grand Signior, his head was ordered to be sent to Constantinople ; but being apprized of the design, he seized and put to death the messengers who brought this order, and soon found means to put himself at the head of an army. Being also assisted by the dangerous situation to which the Turkish empire was reduced, in consequence of the war with Russia, he boldly mounted the throne of the ancient Sultans of Egypt. But not content with the kingdom of Egypt, he also laid claim to Syria, Palestine, and that part of Arabia which had belonged to the ancient Sultans. He marched at the head of his troops to support these pretensions, and

actually subdued some of the neighbouring provinces both of Arabia and Syria. At the same time that he was engaged in these great enterprizes, he was not less attentive to the establishing of a regular form of government, and of introducing order into a country that had been long the seat of anarchy and confusion. His views were equally extended to commerce ; for which purpose he gave great encouragement to the Christian traders, and took off some shameful restraints and indignities, to which they were subjected in that barbarous country. He also wrote a letter to the republic of Venice, with the greatest assurances of his friendship, and that their merchants should meet with every degree of protection and safety. His great design was said to be, to make himself master of the Red Sea ; to open the port of Suez to all nations, but particularly to the Europeans, and to make Egypt once more the great centre of commerce. The conduct and views of Ali Bey shewed an extent of thought and ability that indicated nothing of the barba-

rian, and bespoke a mind equal to the founding of an empire ; but he was not finally successful. He was, however, for some time extremely fortunate ; he assumed the titles and state of the ancient Sultans of Egypt, and was ably supported by Sheik Daher, and some other Arabian Princes, who warmly espoused his interests. He also succeeded in almost all his enterprizes against the neighbouring Asiatic Governors and Bashas, whom he repeatedly defeated ; but he was afterwards deprived of the kingdom of Egypt, by the base and ungrateful conduct of his brother-in-law, Mahomed Bey Abudahap, his troops being totally defeated on the 7th of March, 1773. He was also himself wounded and taken prisoner ; and dying of his wounds, was buried honourably at Grand Cairo. Abudahap afterwards governed Egypt as Sheik Bellet, and marched into Palestine to subdue Sheik Daher. After behaving with great cruelty to the inhabitants of the places he took, he was found dead in his bed one morning at Acre, sup-

posed to be strangled. Sheik Daher accepted the Porte's full amnesty, and, trusting to their assurances, embraced the Captain Pacha's invitation to dine on board his ship, when the Captain produced his orders, and the brave Daher, Ali Bey's ally, had his head cut off in the 85th year of his age.

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